

MP helps celebrate village halls week

Thirsk and Malton Member of Parliament, Kevin Hollinrake, attended a coffee morning with a difference to help celebrate Village Halls Week in January.

He was at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall to show his support for the national campaign which celebrated England's 10,000 village halls.

The Village Hall committee invited politicians from all tiers of government - national, county, district and parish - to their coffee morning and open day at which they showcased the hall's many activities, excellent facilities and enthusiastic volunteers.

Also present were Cllr Mark Robson, Leader of Hambleton Council, and fellow Hambleton member Cllr Peter Bardon, both of whom represent the Sowerby and Topcliffe ward, as well as County Cllr Bob Baker and Malcolm Morley and Peter Palmer, chairs of Topcliffe and Asenby Parish Councils.



Bob Baker, Kevin Hollinrake MP, village hall committee member Karen Morley, Peter Bardon and Hambleton Council Leader Mark Robson.

Mr Hollinrake said: "It was a real pleasure to come along to this very busy and successful village hall to celebrate the value of village halls to rural communities.

"Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall is the hub of this community and is obviously extremely loved and well used by local people. It plays host to an amazing range of activities and events and the dedicated volunteers deserve a big thank you for their enthusiasm and commitment on behalf of people from the two villages and surrounding area.

"It has been explained to me that Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall is different - possibly unique - in that it is shared between two communities on opposite sides of the River Swale, in different parishes, different boroughs (Hambleton and Harrogate), different county divisions and even different parliamentary constituencies.



Members of the 1st Topcliffe Scout troop toasted marshmallows for guests at the event.

"It is clear that these divides have not created any barriers but rather have provided a bridge between the two communities. The village hall has been the catalyst, bringing together local villagers from both sides of the river and providing a brilliant hub for community activity."

The event raised £171 for village hall funds.

Doctor Parker to retire

Dr Charles Parker has announced that he intends to retire from Topcliffe surgery at the end of September 2020 after 28 years' service.

In making the announcement, the surgery's other doctors, Dr Doswell and Dr Wood said that Dr Parker will be sadly missed and that the process of recruiting a new GP to join the team and to continue the surgery's ethos of responsive and outstanding patient care, is now underway.

The Tattler intends to publish a comprehensive article about Dr Parker and his service in our community in the September edition. We'll also report on the recruitment of the new doctor joining the team.

Green Waste

Anyone wishing to have their garden waste collected on a fortnightly basis from April onwards by either Hambleton Council or Harrogate Council must apply for a licence now.

The existing 2019-20 licence runs out at the end of March and a new licence, costing £40 per green bin in Hambleton or £41 in Harrogate (depending on which village you live in), must be obtained for collections beyond that date.

You can use the council's bin collection day finder to view specific collection dates for Topcliffe at www.hambleton.gov.uk and for Asenby at www.harrogate.gov.uk

Unusual design for proposed house

An unusual design for a new house in Topcliffe is attracting much attention in the village.



An application to build a three bedroomed, two storey house on an odd-shaped piece of land on Catton Road, just down the bank from The Swan public house, has been lodged with Hambleton Council.

Locals have been invited to comment on the plans and many have but there's still time to lodge views via Hambleton's website.

To residents of Winn Lane & Manor Close



A message from Richard Wallis, Topcliffe Bowls Club.

Because of restrictions recently introduced by Topcliffe Parish

Council and reported in the last *Tattler*, due to safety considerations parking is no longer allowed on the village playing field.

This means that from the start of the new season in April, Bowling Club members and visiting teams will have no option but to park on Winn Lane, Manor Close or by the cemetery. Our season goes from April through to August, so five months in all and we play between 6 and 10pm every Monday and Wednesday evenings...and occasionally on Friday evenings.

Our Bowling Club members and visiting clubs will be asked to make sure that they park considerately at all times and especially make sure they cause no obstructions for residents or emergency services.



Weekly classes around Topcliffe & surrounding areas

- Hatha Yoga
- Yin Yoga
- Yoga Nidra
- "Gentle Years" Seated Yoga
- Restorative Yoga
- Private Yoga Lessons
- Workshops & Retreats

Yvonne Lovatt

BWY, Total Yoga Nidra teacher, BWY Gentle Years, YAP

07944 435718

classes@mytimeyoga.uk

Facebook: yogayorkshire

Instagram: yorkshireyoga

www.mytimeyoga.uk

Christmas Reports

As the last edition of *The Tattler* was published mid-December, we were able to tell readers about festive events on the calendar...but not on how they went! So even though it's now March we thought it would be useful to report on how a few key events went.

Mulled Wine: Residents of Asenby raised £512 at their annual mulled wine and minced pies event. The cash was donated to Herriot Hospice Homecare. The organisers Siobhan, Joy and Juliet asked us to thank those who attended, those who bought raffle tickets, Peter and Judith Lowe for the use of their home. Thanks are also due to the many organisations that provided raffle prizes, including West Park Inns, Hambleton Ales, Early Ornamentals, Racha Thai restaurant, Sutton Bank Visitor Centre, The World of James Herriot and artist Chris Moss.

Senior Citizens' Lunch: The senior citizens' Christmas lunch was a tremendous success with over thirty seniors sitting down to a three-course lunch prepared by volunteers (most of whom were themselves old enough to have had lunch). It was a most enjoyable couple of hours with entertainment provided by duo Alan Nuttall & Julian Capell and by The Sowerby Strummers. Surplus funds were donated to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.



Lunch is served.

Christmas Tree: For the first time that anyone can recall Topcliffe erected a Christmas tree outside the village hall. The Parish Council and Village Hall Committee shared the cost of the tree and lights and Jenny Bumby kindly arranged through her employer, National Tube Stockholders Ltd, the supply of a large pipe into which the tree fits. Ben Lowe, owner of Swale Fencing, kindly gave his services to prepare a permanent hole into which the pipe is now firmly fixed...and it can be used year after year to hold the tree.

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£12m Feed Mill planned for Dalton Bridge

A North Yorkshire company that this year is celebrating its 120th anniversary has been given planning approval to build a feed mill on land at Dalton New Bridge, just near the Cod Beck bridge and road junction completed last year.

The project by I'Anson Brothers of Masham is described as a state-of-the-art facility - one of the most technically advanced of its type in Europe.

The development comes as the company celebrates one hundred and twenty years in business and is looking to secure its position in an expanding marketplace locally and in forty countries across the globe.

I'Anson Brothers currently employ 80 people and will recruit more to work at the new mill. The £12 million development cost is the biggest single investment in the company's history.



What the Mill will look like

Managing Director Chris I'Anson said: "The company looked at sites across the North of England but decided to maintain its historic links with local customers and suppliers, as well as with North Yorkshire, by developing at Dalton New Bridge. This facility will ensure we are able to play our role in enabling the agricultural and farming industry to meet the challenge of feeding an increasing UK and global population."

Now that Hambleton Council has approved the plans the company will start on an access works so that ground and site development can get underway. Construction of the mill itself is expected to start in the autumn and last for 18 months.

Appeal for tablecloths

Organisers of catering events in the Village Hall are appealing for white tablecloths of any size, but particularly large ones. If you have any tablecloths that you are happy to donate, please drop them off at the Village Hall or contact Karen Morley on 577426

Village Meeting Dates

Topcliffe Parish Council
1st Thursday of the month.

Asenby Parish Council
3rd Wednesday of alternate months.

Village Hall Committee
next ordinary meeting and AGM in May 2020

Check out specific dates on our village websites:

www.topcliffe.org.uk

www.asenby.net

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Pizza and Pasta Night -
Wednesday

Pie Night - Thursday

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lunch - 12 noon to 3pm

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Tuesday to Saturday

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Jane Goddard

We were all deeply saddened at the death of Jane Goddard on Friday 17th January. For more than thirty years Jane lived in Asenby and was a staunch supporter and PCC member at Topcliffe Church. She latterly downsized to Bagby but continued to worship regularly at Topcliffe, the last time being the Carol Service in December.



Jane was a true countrywoman at heart, a keen walker, lover of the Yorkshire Dales and Moors and all the natural world. She had a strong and independent spirit, bringing up three children single handedly, whilst following a career in nursing. After a lifetime caring for others she found her own diminishing health towards the end difficult. She will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Under 11s are on the ball

Nine pupils from Topcliffe Church of England Academy recently travelled to York College to participate in the North Yorkshire Girls Under 11s County Football Finals. The team had successfully won the two prior stages which were for the Thirsk area and then the Hambleton area in order to compete at county level.



Y5 6 Football County Finals.

At the finals the standard was extremely high and the girls played exceptionally well winning a well-deserved 3rd place. The school is naturally incredibly proud of Alice Dunkley, Beth Hainsworth, Chloe Mitchard-Graham, Emily Hepworth, Heidi Wilson, Isabel Broadbent, Lexi Ramshay, Lottie Day and Maisie Binks.

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CONTACT DETAILS

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lizanddave@the-elm-gallery.co.uk



Raymond Watkin Storah (Gus)

Raymond Watkin Storah, much more commonly known as Gus, died recently at home in Topcliffe. He was born in Thornton, Bradford in 1939, and moved to Topcliffe in 1970, not least because of the excellent fishing. Years before, he and his father would often travel to the village for the weekend, staying at the Angel Inn, attracted purely by the abundance of fish in the Swale.

Although he eventually became a painter and decorator, Gus originally studied at art school in Bradford and while he gave up on dreams of becoming a professional artist, the pictures on the walls of the bungalow he shared with his wife Sylvia, reveal skill and artistic flair.



The couple met in Malham Cove. Sylvia was on holiday with a group of girls while Gus was potholing also with friends. The couple were married in 1965 and five years later moved to Topcliffe. For several years they lived on the caravan park, enjoying the social life with its frequent fancy dress parties. Sylvia worked at the retirement home at Baldersby Park, which is now Queen Mary's School, and Gus worked at Alanbrooke Barracks where he took the opportunity to gain an interesting variety of skills.

In 1967 their son Chris was born and attended Topcliffe then Thirsk School, and later gained a degree in computer science at York University. He and his family moved to Australia in 2005 and live there still.

At Gus's funeral Chris read out a poem he had written for his father. It described his favourite memories of Gus, perfectly summing up his father's character. The theme was their days at the seaside when his father would grumble about the pebbles, the heat, the sand, the general discomfort of a beach but then go on to build the most amazing sandcastles which were apparently things of beauty, attracting crowds of admirers. Chris said that he felt like sandcastle royalty.

Unfortunately, in his 40s, Gus suffered an accident at work and was forced to take early retirement after losing his leg. A man who believed in getting on with things, however, he continued to enjoy gardening and fishing, as well frequent trips abroad with Sylvia. They would drive all the way down to Spain, enjoying a month of adventures, and camping all the way. Greece though was the country closest to their hearts and they visited as much as possible, making friends and joining in celebrations, even holding a party there for their Greek friends when it was

their own Golden Wedding. They also visited Australia, spending three months with Chris and his family.

In recent years, Gus and Sylvia were happy to join in with the pub quiz at The Angel and the games of boccia at the Village Hall. He was immensely sociable and famously had a dry sense of humour and a good line in banter. His friends and family will most definitely miss him and in the words of his son: "Today we say goodbye.... Tomorrow we remember the sandcastles."

New season at Swaleside

This time of year is normally a very busy time for Amanda and Andrew who manage the Swaleside Holiday Park close to Topcliffe bridge.

Following the winter break when all but a couple of owners have to leave the site, the pair are normally rushing about getting the site shipshape for the new season. There's trees and bushes to prune, paths and parking areas to be maintained and there are plenty of gardens throughout the park that need attention. This year they have renewed all the fishing pegs, making the sites look great and in keeping with the riverbank... as well as much easier to maintain.

It's also a time to look forward to welcoming back owners as the weather improves, and especially planning events for Easter, which is always a busy time on the park. There'll be raffles, cakes, nibbles and drinks available and generally a nice get together and catch up, and a welcome to old and new owners.

Amanda and Andrew have decided that this year several charities will be supported - namely Autism, Air Ambulance Topcliffe and Macmillan Nurses.

Amanda said: "As everyone knows, the holiday park is particularly vulnerable to flooding during periods of heavy rain and we've seen an unusual amount of rain this year so far. During the last weeks of February the park was on special alert as the River Swale was regularly lapping against the top of the river bank. We had to call for assistance from Hambleton Council when the water was in danger of flooding on to the park and breaching our defences and were pleased when a pallet full of sandbags arrived to plug the gaps. Nonetheless, things were so bad that the site had to be evacuated... meaning the few still staying at the park had to seek accommodation elsewhere until the danger passed."



River Swale nears danger level

"We'd like to thank those who helped us during the worst of the weather and especially the kind lady in Topcliffe who offered us a bed when the flooding danger was greatest. That was a lovely gesture."

Events in Topcliffe

Lent Lunches - Friday 13 March, Wednesdays 18 & 25 March and Wednesday 1 April - 12.15 to 1.15pm at the Village Hall

During Lent the soup and sweet lunches are to be held on the above dates. Come along and enjoy a soup, cake and tea/coffee served by children of Topcliffe Church of England Primary School to raise money for Christian Aid. No set charge - donations welcome. There'll be a collection of dried and tinned foods and toiletries for Thirsk Clock.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 7.30pm on Monday 23rd March - St Columba's Church

Everyone in the parish is invited and encouraged to attend the meeting. The church is keen to get active support from new people and is urgently looking for nominations for church officers - Wardens (two) and Parochial Church Council members (minimum of two) - from confirmed members of Church of England or allied churches. The Wardens and PCC members will have significant opportunity to shape the future of the church. Application forms are available at the back of the church.

The Topcliffe & Asenby Challenge Quiz and Curry Night - Saturday 28 March 2020 - 7pm at the Village Hall

This is the first Topcliffe & Asenby Challenge Quiz organised by the Village Hall Committee. There'll be questions on a wide range of subjects including geography, history, music, sport and general knowledge. You can come as a team of up to six or we'll sort individuals into teams on the night. The winning team will be presented with the Challenge Quiz Trophy and will receive a cash prize - £1 from every entry ticket sold! A curry supper, with vegetarian option, will be served at 8pm. Bring your own drinks and pens! Tickets are £5 per person available in advance from Doug Allan (578526) or Judith Lowe (577911), or at the door on the night.

Topcliffe Tidy Up Day - Sunday, 29 March 2020 - 10.30am to 12.30pm

Following the success of the first two tidy up days last year, a further event is being organised to tackle necessary work at The Cemetery in Winn Lane and in



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7am to 12 noon Saturdays.
Closed Sundays.

Jubilee Gardens. Volunteers are invited to join the working party and help further improve Topcliffe. Meet at 10am at the Village Hall. Bring your own tools (gloves, brush, shovel, shears, loppers). Refreshments will be available at the Village Hall throughout the morning.

Rural Arts – Arts and Crafts classes – 1.30 to 3.30pm – Tuesdays 7 April, 5 May & 2 June at the Village Hall

This regular class is now attracting new participants who are getting hands-on experience of a wide variety of arts and crafts...and enjoying some good company.



Mosaic making with Rural Arts.

Classes are free. Just pop along.

Topcliffe Big Race Night - Saturday, 18 April 2020 - 7pm until late at the Village Hall

One of the most popular events on the village calendar is back for a third year! Doors open at 7pm and the first race is off at 7.30pm. You can have a brilliant evening at the races, with an excellent supper and lots of excitement and fun. There'll be a cash bar serving draught beer, tins of lager, wines and soft drinks. And there'll be some great prizes to be won in the raffle.

Attic Auction - Saturday, 25 April 2020 at the Village Hall

The popular annual Attic Auction is returning to its normal late spring slot and will be at the Village Hall on Saturday 25th April with all proceeds going towards St Columba's.



John conducting last year's auction.

As usual the organisers are appealing for donations of anything saleable (but please no TV sets, computers, clothes or soft toys). Items can be taken to the Hall on the day of the sale from 8am with viewing from 12 noon and the auction starting at 2pm. Buyers, please do come and see what delights and treasures you can find for home and garden. This is recycling in its purest form, plus, not only bargains for you, but also essential financial support for our church!

VE Day Celebrations - Friday, 8 May 2020 at the Village Hall

We'll be marking VE Day with a range of events in the Village Hall, starting at 11.30am with prayers and laying of a wreath at the World War Two memorial in the entrance lobby, followed by a soup and sandwich lunch and entertainment courtesy of The Dishforth Military Wives Choir.

Topcliffe Parish Council report

Spring is on its way! Despite the snow and rain we appear to have escaped the worst of the floods: sandbags were issued to The Mill and Swaleside holiday park but thank goodness no real damage has occurred.

If you are in need of sandbags please contact either Malc Morley (577426) or Jamie Moores (578076), both of whom have keys to the Toll Booth where the bags are stored. Thanks to Cllr Mark Robson for the delivery of fresh supplies of sandbags from the District Council.

The Sheep Wash has been flooded several times delaying any chance of reseeding it with wildflower seeds. The alley between Back Lane and Deans Square has been dug up twice, first because of a burst water pipe and then because of an electric supply issue. We are waiting for the disturbed ground to settle before we can get on with resurfacing.

I would encourage anyone interested in helping out on the next Tidy Up day to come and join the regulars who come out to help make our village look better. We're getting together on Sunday 29 March between 10am and 12.30pm, so please meet at the Village Hall to be allocated to a work team. Refreshment will be provided in the Village Hall afterwards.

The Parish Council has ordered a Speed Matrix sign which hopefully will arrive in the next 4 - 6 weeks. It is a mobile sign and will be used near the school and alternatively on Long Street. It will monitor both directions of traffic. The Police and other parish councils have all reported that they do help to reduce speeding so hopefully we will see the same. We can also ask the police to bring their speed camera van to the village if the problem of speeding persists.

The problem of HGV traffic passing through Topcliffe is proving very frustrating and it's an issue which is difficult to get the authorities to do something about it. We are trying to get the Highways Authority and the Police to install large signs warning HGV drivers that they are being monitored (like Sharow and Brompton on Swale have) but so far they are resisting. The Police have also indicated that they may not prosecute based on any evidence we provide to them. The feeling is that we need to exert much more pressure on them. One way to achieve this is for individuals to complain in writing to the Police, Highways and Trading Standards. We are considering our next action and will keep residents informed.

Many thanks to David and Margaret Brown (EES Waste) for using their road sweeper (for free) to clean Winn Lane twice in the last five weeks. To John Pearson and family for cleaning up Back Lane and to Josh Barningham for widening Back Lane.

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall - Regular Activities

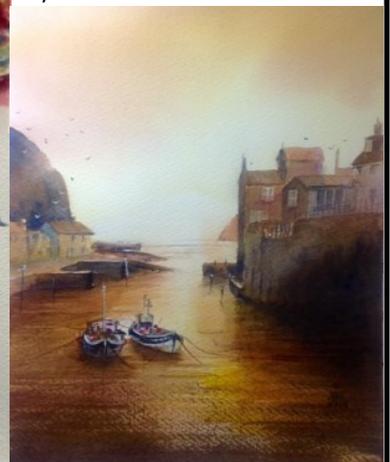
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Pilates 9 - 10am	Art Class 1 - 4pm	Yoga 7 - 8pm
Tuesday	Pammy's Pilates 9.30 - 10.30am	Boccia 1.30 - 3.30pm Library 1.30 - 3.30pm Dance Class 4.30 - 6.30pm	
Wednesday	Daisychain 9.30 - 11.30am	Hatha Yoga 1.30 - 2.45pm	Beaver CubScouts 6 - 8pm
Thursday	Pilates 9.15 - 11.15am		Pammy's Pilates 6.15 - 7.15pm Indoor Bowls 7.30 - 10pm
Friday			Scouts 7.30 - 10pm (Winter)

ART CONNECTIONS

Artists Barry and Vivien Wilton-Middlemass take art classes at Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall every Monday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm. Classes restart on **Monday, 16 September**.



No matter what your level – beginners to advanced – we would be delighted if you come and join us. There's always something new to learn and if you are not sure of your capabilities please simply come along and have a chat and a try.



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Recent Floods at The Mill

February was certainly a wet month for the UK and here in Topcliffe we saw the River Swale at the highest levels for some time. For those of us living down in The Mill and surrounding properties it's always a worry when the river rises to such levels...memories of 2012 still haunt us!

We use the information provided by the Environment Agency (details below for those interested) which tell us what the river levels are doing upstream and so we know what to expect a few hours later. That information, our own instincts and local knowledge generally puts us in good stead as to what to expect when the river rises.

Fortunately, Catton Lane has only flooded once recently and that was near the Sheep Wash. When it does flood it is advisable not to drive through it unless you're driving a tractor!



High water near The Mill

After the flooding of 2012 we all made sure our properties were protected with flood barriers. However, sandbags are always welcome as an extra protection. During the recent bad weather we were very grateful to Cllr Mark Robson and Jamie Moores who arranged for two pallets of bags to be delivered to the Toll Booth and then on us at The Mill.

We always get a lot of support and concern from locals and people further afield when the river rises and we are extremely grateful for this! Many thanks to The Angel, The Swan and those locals who let us park our cars outside or on their property - that's one less worry for us! Special thanks to Josh and Hannah and Steve & Sahra Rayner. Flooding is devastating and the events of 2012 are always in the back of our mind!

People might be interested to know that we run a Facebook page - Topcliffe Weir - where we post information about the river levels, and post pictures of the

river and surrounding areas throughout the year. We've been running this page for a few years now and our followers currently stand at nearly 700.

The river is still running high as I write this article - hopefully by the time you read it we'll have seen a significant drop. Fingers crossed.

riverlevels.uk/river-swale-eldmire-with-crakehill-crakehill

www.gaugemap.co.uk/#!Map

Ruth O'Hare at The Mill

Come and See

St Columba's and other churches in the Diocese are organising a series of events under the "Come and See" banner and the aim is to present, embrace and involve people in church activities.

From Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 March, Archbishop John Sentamu, together with as many as thirty Bishops, will be working across the Diocese to bring people together in a range of activities and events. In this Deanery Bishop Paul Bayes of Liverpool and Bishop John Flack will be the main participants. Among the nearby events are:

Lent Lunch at Topcliffe Village Hall, Friday
13 March from 12.15pm - 1.15pm

Charlie Chuck's Guide to the Universe at
Baldersby St James Church, Friday 13 March at
7.30pm

Open Church at Skipton-on-Swale Church,
Saturday 14 March, 10am - 2pm

Messy Church at Baldersby St James Church,
Saturday 14 March, 2 - 4pm

Messy Church at Dalton Church, Sunday
15 March, 2 - 4pm



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Ward Report

It has certainly been a busy start to the New Year. It's not unusual for the council to have a very busy agenda, but things have gone crazy because of the horrendous weather delivered courtesy of storms Ciara and Dennis.

Much of my time has been taken up over the last two to three weeks helping and advising communities and individuals affected by the terrible flooding that our area has experienced. In Topcliffe the flood threat to homes at The Mill and on Swaleside Holiday Park was considerable, but fortunately they both avoided the worst. It's a nightmare when rising water threatens your home, but some hard work and vigilance helped save the day.

I was happy to be able to help by having pallet loads of sandbags delivered to the Toll Booth for onward delivery to Swaleside and The Mill. Thanks to Jamie Moores for his help on the day.



Cllr Mark Robson

Naturally, locals have watched the issues at Dalton Bridge with much interest and concern. It's only just over a year since the £4.3 million project to replace the old bridge and build a new road giving access to the industrial

estate was completed. It seems reasonable to presume that the works undertaken would solve the problem of flooding, but something is definitely not right down there. It turns out that the county council has identified some drains that are not working as expected and there is an ongoing capacity issue for some pipes. I understand that the county council has identified the problems and will be taking urgent action to rectify them. I have been assured that none of the recent flooding has anything to do with the new bridge or the road itself.

Again, I would like to particularly thank Roy Fishwick of Cleveland Steel and his company's contractor Jimmy Binks, for their amazing efforts to keep traffic moving most of the time throughout the worst of the flooding. Many others, too numerous to mention, also deserve a big thank you.

Snooker Club

The popular snooker club located on the upper floor of the Toll Booth is always welcoming to new members. It has two tables - one full size and the other three-quarter size. Members hold their own key so can gain entry at any time to the heated accommodation. Under 18s can play but must be accompanied by an adult.

Past members who are still holding a key are kindly asked to return their key to David Bowman (577843).



Below there is an article about the proposed crematorium planned for Skipton on Swale. I am personally a big supporter of this initiative as I think the district needs this kind of facility, rather than us having to use crematoria in other parts of North Yorkshire and Teesside. A consultation meeting held on 26 February was very successful and I anticipate that the scheme will go for planning approval in May.

Anyone who wants to contact me can do so at any time via the council's offices or call me on 07527 375851. You can also meet me at the regular Parish Council meetings in Topcliffe, which I always try to attend.

Cllr Mark Robson

Crematorium Image Released

In the last edition of *The Tattler* we reported on a proposal to build a crematorium at Skipton on Swale. Now we are able to show you what the planned new building might look like.

The public were invited to a consultation event last month at Sandhutton to hear more about the plan. Leader of Hambleton District Council, Councillor Mark Robson explained: "It was a pre-planning consultation event to help local people familiarise themselves with the proposed facility and what is planned, ask questions and provide us with useful insight, to help shape this development as the project continues."



Artist's impression of the proposed crematorium

"When completed, the new crematorium will offer state-of-the-art facilities combined with more traditional aspects. This will be an important local asset for the district - something not already here, and something really quite special." Details about the proposed crematorium are available on the council's website.

A Night at the Races

Get on course for a great night's entertainment ... and raise funds for our village hall

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall, Topcliffe

Saturday 18th April 2020

Doors open 7pm. Betting starts 7.15pm. First race 7.30pm

8 sponsored races. Raffle with great prizes.
Licensed bar serving beers, lager, wines
and soft drinks

Tickets £6 - Includes Supper

Tickets from Doug Allan (578526), Judith Lowe (577911)
and Topcliffe Post Office

The Milk Churn Farm Shop

It has been a dream of ours for quite sometime to have our own farm shop. When we failed to get the first premises we looked at we decided instead to get our hamper business up and running. Now, eighteen months on, we have a successful clientele for our hampers and our thoughts again have turned to our farm shop dream.

We purchased 81 Long Street, Topcliffe as a rental investment but difficulties in securing the right tenants started us wondering if this centrally located property might be ideal for a farm shop.



Kerry & Debbie outside 81 Front Street

Before seeking planning approval, a courtesy visit was made to talk to John Mulley at the Post Office - the village's only existing shop. We want to avoid any ill-feeling and felt it important to provide assurances that if we were to proceed we would not sell anything that would encroach on his business. There is room to support each other and provide the sale of fresh food to locals and surrounding communities.

We have had a pre-planning meeting with the planning department at Hambleton Council and we were pleased that they could see much merit in our dream plan. We also have had face to face conversations with the neighbours and they are generally in support of this project.

Our aim is to provide fresh meat, fish and vegetables, specialist cheeses and charcuterie...as well as artisan breads and cakes. Customers will be able to order vegetable and meat boxes that we will deliver to local homes. We will provide weekend boxes for a full English and/or Sunday lunch box to include wine.

Ever tried to get a joint for one? No problem we will do that for you. Summer barbecues with fresh meat will be seasonal and we will cater for vegetarians, vegans and those requiring gluten free products. We aim to provide quality, affordable products that won't break the bank, they don't have to be expensive.

This will be a community shop and we want to do our bit...we will provide the vegetables for soups served in the village hall on Wednesdays.

Fancy a cuppa or a grand cup of fresh coffee with the chance to meet friends? We hope to be able to offer you

this. The beautiful Oak framed sunroom lends itself to providing a lovely tea/room, coffee shop.

If we get planning permission, we will provide some local employment opportunities. The whole business will be run with an eye to good environmental practice - avoiding one use plastics where we can, using paper bags where necessary and encouraging customers to bring their own containers and bags for life! And we'll be happy to listen to our customers to try and supply the products they want.

Our plans are now on the Hambleton planning site and we are a few weeks into an eight-week consultation. We hope the people of Topcliffe and Asenby will support our venture and help us to bring fresh quality produce to the community in which we all live.

Debbie Roberts and Kerry Parker

Get on Message

There's one sure fire way of ensuring that you get to know about things being planned at the Village Hall...and elsewhere in our two villages... and that's to receive the regular events email from committee member, Doug Allan.

Anyone with access to a computer or smart phone can be added to the circulation by simply dropping Doug an email at doug@dougallan.co.uk and if you hear someone say they didn't know what was going on in our villages, suggest they add their name to the circulation too!

Remember that besides the email, other communications are via the two village websites, the quarterly *Tattler*, posters, A boards, notice boards...and, of course, word of mouth!



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The Rev'd Susanne Jukes

Easter Day is a very significant day in the church calendar. It's the day when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and it is a joyful day for Christians all over the world. This year, however, the Easter period at St Columba's is also tinged with sadness. A week after Easter Day, at 10.45am on the 19th of April, the Rev Susanne Jukes will take her last service at Topcliffe and this will mark the beginning of a well-earned retirement.



Susanne Jukes - leaving our Parish

Susanne came to Topcliffe in 2013 following the sudden and unexpected death of her husband Keith, who was Dean of Ripon Cathedral. It must have been very difficult, so soon after being widowed, to move house and start a new and very demanding role as a parish priest. Susanne has not only been the Vicar of St Columba's at Topcliffe, she has also been Vicar of all the other churches in the Benefice: St John's at Skipton on Swale, St James' Church at Baldersby St James, St John's Church at Dalton and the Mission Rooms at Baldersby and Rainton.

As well as Susanne being responsible for all these churches, she has also been a Governor at all the Church Schools associated with them: Topcliffe C of E Academy, Baldersby St James C of E Primary School and Dishforth C of E Primary School. Susanne has also had a good relationship with Queen Mary's School and every year, there has been a service at Queen Mary's for all the churches in the Benefice, as well as the pupils.

She has spent many happy hours with the pupils of all the schools, regularly taking school assemblies and speaking to children in numerous classrooms. Her work with schools has taken up a lot of her time and has been greatly appreciated by headteachers, staff and children.

Susanne's role of being a parish priest, along with her school governor responsibilities, constituted most of her work, but she has fulfilled another lesser known role too. Every Tuesday, Susanne has been a prison chaplain - a different but very important job, working with people who are often vulnerable, hopeless and afraid. Some Sunday evenings, she has led services at the prison too.

Despite her heavy workload, Susanne has found time to be a good friend to many people in the area. Those who came into contact with her through baptisms, weddings and funerals have been blessed by her warmth, love and compassion which helped them through both the happy and sad occasions in their lives. She will be missed by all the churches in the Benefice and especially by all those who enjoyed her services at St Columba's.

Susanne will be leaving the Vicarage in Topcliffe and moving up to Bishop Auckland. She and Keith bought a cottage there many years ago and this will become her home. She is looking forward to seeing more of her family, especially the grandchildren. She's also looking forward to having time to do the things she enjoys and to have time to herself at last. We wish her well and are very grateful for all she has done. May God bless her in this new and exciting phase of her life.

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Guidance

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19
www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public

Security experts will help with cyber fraud

North Yorkshire Police are promoting a new resource to help victims of cyber-crime. The Cyber Helpline provides free, expert support for victims of cyber-crime and it is now available to residents in our two villages.

The Cyber Helpline is a not-for-profit organisation which provides free assistance to anyone aged 13 or older.

www.thecyberhelpline.com


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